

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04546 221212Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 MC-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /071 W
-----221215Z 129064 /50

P 221140Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2726
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJ: US ARMS SALES POLICY

REF A) STATE 115409 B) STATE 115244 C) STATE 115406

1. CHARGE PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY WITH TEXT
OF SUBJECT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED REFTEL A, AND
INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C MAY 21. FONMIN
EXPRSSED THANKS, BUT HAD NO QUESTION OR COMMENT.

2. POL-MIL COUNS PROVIDED GENERAL TOUFANIAN PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AM MAY 22
PRIOR TO LATTER'S NORMAL SUNDAY AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH.
TOUFANIAN SAID HE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS AFTER
STUDYING NEW POLICY, BUT WISHED TO RAISE IMMEDIATE
QUESTION NOW, NAMELY: "WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
IRAN ON THE ONE HAND, AND NATO, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND ON THE OTHER HAND?" IT WAS POINTED OUT
THAT US HAD WARM AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IRAN, AS
WITH OTHER CENTO MEMBERS, BUT THAT US SECURITY
RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN NOT OF THE SAME SORT AS WITH
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OTHER COUNTRIES TOUFANIAN HAD MENTIONED. LTG MASSUMI,
WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, ASKED ABOUT US - IRAN BILATERAL
AGREEMENT OF LATE 50'S. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT
AGREEMENT MENTIONED BY MASSUMI underscored CLOSE
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT DID NOT
EPRESENT SAME SECURITY INVOLVEMENT AS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES MENTIONED BY TOUFANIAN.

3. TOUFANIAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SHAH HE HAD RECENTLY SENT LETTER TO CARMISH/MAAG AFFIRMING GOI INTEREST IN 300 F-16S. ADDITIONALLY, TOUFANIAN WENT ON TO NOTE, BASED ON HIS GUIDANCE FROM THE SHAH, THAT WHEN GOI REPLACES ITS LATE MODEL F-5S IT WOULD INTEND TO DO SO WITH ADDITIONAL F-16S. ALSO, SOME YEARS HENCE WHEN IRAN MUST REPLACE ITS F-4S IT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE F-18 WITH THE GOI, ASSISTED BY NORTHROP, UNDERTAKING ANY MODIFICATION THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED AT IACI.

4. TOUFANIAN EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT GOI WISHED TO BUY FROM US, AND IF A-18 NOT FEASIBLE THAN IRAN WOULD WISH CONSIDER ADDITIONAL F-16S TO REPLACE ITS F-4S. IF IT NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SALE WITH US THEN IRAN WOULD HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE, AND WOULD CONSIDER THE MRCA (NATO'S MULTI-ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT) OR THE MIRAGE 2000. TOUFANIAN ADMITTED THAT BUYING US INFINITELY PREFERABLE SINCE IT WOULD AVOID VERY DIFFICULT LOGISTICS AND OTHER SUPPORT PROBLEMS. ALSO, IRAN CONVINCED US HAD MARKED LEAD IN AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY.

5. TOUFANIAN SAID THAT GOI RECOGNIZED THAT TIMING ON THESE QUESTIONS NOT IMMEDIATE, BUT IRAN WISHED TO INFORM US IN ORDER TO BE IN BEST POSITION TO PROCEED WITH PLANNING. IRAN, AS HE HAD SAID EARLIER, WOULD PREFER TO DO BUSINESS WITH US, BUT IF THAT

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NOT POSSIBLE TOUFANIAN SAID IRAN PREPARED TO BUY ELSEWHERE.

6. FINALLY, TOUFANIAN SAID SHAH HAD MADE DECISION TO PURCHASE EIGHT PF DESTROYERS AND TOUFANIAN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEEK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COVERING SUCH A BUY FROM ITALY, THE FRG, THE UK, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE US. AGAIN, TOUFANIAN SAID IRAN WOULD PREFER TO MAKE SUCH A BUY FROM THE US.

7. IN CONCLUSION TOUFANIAN SAID HE WOULD STUDY NEW POLICY WITH INTEREST AND MIGHT WISH TO RAISE QUESTIONS SUBSEQUENTLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN04546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770182-0890
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770530/aaaabaal.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9adc428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 115409, 77 STATE 115244, 77 STATE 115406
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2418059
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ARMS SALES POLICY
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9adc428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009